

EXCISE F 012

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PAGE 01 MCSCGW 17520 01 CF 02 101551Z

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 17523

F.C.12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PREL UR AF

SUBJECT: AUTHORITATIVE PRAVDA ARTICLE

SUBJECT: RUSSOVIET
- ON PAKISTAN

CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY

2. AN AUTHORITATIVE PRAVDA ARTICLE ON THE
TOKEN "WITHDRAWAL" OF SIX SOVIET REGIMENTS
FROM AFGHANISTAN REAFFIRMS THE STANDARD
SOVIET POSITION ON AN AFGHANISTAN
SETTLEMENT. ARTICLE AND COMMENTS BY
AN MFA MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL
INDICATE THAT MOSCOW EXPECTS ITS
OPPONENTS ON AFGHANISTAN TO MAKE THE
CONCESSIONS.

END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17620 01 OF 02 101551Z

PRAVDA ARTICLE

3. PRAVDA OCTOBER 10 PUBLISHED AN UNSIGNED, AUTHORIZATIVE ARTICLE ON THE TOKEN WITHDRAWAL OF SIX SOVIET REGIMENTS FROM AFGHANISTAN. THE ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT THE STABILIZATION OF THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN IS ALLOWING MOSCOW TO MAKE THIS MOVE; THE ARTICLE POINTS INTER ALIA TO THE FOLLOWING AS EVIDENCE OF STABILIZATION:

- -- FAILURE TO OVERTHROW THE REGIME
- SINCE 1978 DEMONSTRATES THAT THE
- APRIL REVOLUTION INDEED IS

- IRREVERSIBLE;

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PAGE 1

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- THE REGIME RECENTLY HAS ACHIEVED
-- MILITARY SUCCESSES IN THE WAR
-- WITH THE MUJAHIDEEN, PROGRESS IN
-- CLOSING THE BORDERS WITH IRAN AND
-- PAKISTAN AND IN ADDITION THE LRA
-- MILITARY HAS BECOME A "MORE EFFECTIVE
-- FIGHTING FORCE":
-- THE REGIME HAS SUCCEEDED IN
-- BROADENING ITS SOCIAL BASE AND IN
-- ATTRACTING A BROAD RANGE OF POLITICAL
-- FORCES, INCLUDING ONES PREVIOUSLY
-- HOSTILE, TO SUPPORT THE REGIME.

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 17620 21 OF 02 131551Z

4. THE ARTICLE PORTRAYS THE REGIME'S OPPONENTS
(I.E., U.S., PAKISTAN, MUJAHIDEEN, ETC.) AS
"DESPERATELY" TRYING TO HALT THE PROCESS OF
NORMALIZATION THROUGH INTERFERENCE IN
AFGHANISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE ARTICLE
ADDS THAT MOSCOW HOPES THAT ITS WITHDRAWAL
WILL LEAD ITS OPPONENTS TO DRAW THE RIGHT
CONCLUSIONS AND CURTAIL THEIR INTERFERENCE
AND WILL ALSO CREATE A GOOD POLITICAL CLIMATE
FOR THE U.N. INDIRECT TALKS.
5. THE ARTICLE WARNS AGAINST BELIEVING
THAT THE REGIME IN KABUL CAN BE CHANGED
AND REITERATES THE SOVIET COMMITMENT
TO ASSIST THE DRA.

MFA REMARKS

6.  (1)
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85 MOSCOW 17620

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PAGE 01

ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00

R-21

PA-01

MOSCOW 17620 02 OF 02 121551Z

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INFO MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

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E.C.12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PREL UR AF

SUBJECT: AUTHORITATIVE PRAVDA ARTICLE

COMMENT

7. AS THE ARTICLE [REDACTED] MADE
CLEAR, MOSCOW STILL REFUSES TO COMPROMISE
ON OR EVEN DISCUSS THE KEY ISSUES IN
AN AFGHANISTAN SETTLEMENT: THE COMPLETE
WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET FORCES, AFGHANISTAN'S

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17620 02 OF 02 121551Z

POST-WITHDRAWAL POLITICAL STRUCTURE,
MOSCOW'S POST-WITHDRAWAL MILITARY RE-
LATIONSHIP WITH AFGHANISTAN, AND AFGHANISTAN'S
FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION POST-WITHDRAWAL.
IN PLAYING UP THE "WITHDRAWAL," THE SOVIETS
PRESUMABLY ARE HOPING TO ENTICE THE UNWARY
INTO A FICTIONAL SETTLEMENT.

8. FYI: THE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WHO
WILL BE TRAVELLING TO AFGHANISTAN FOR THE

"WITHDRAWAL" APPEAR UNPERSUADED BY THE
SOVIET LINE. IN AN OCTOBER 10 EMBASSY
BRIEFING FOR THE JOURNALISTS ON THE
WITHDRAWAL, ONE COMPARED IT TO THE ANNUAL
PROPAGANDA "WITHDRAWALS" FROM KAMPUCHEA.

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PAGE 3

86 MOSCOW 17620

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9. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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PAGE 4

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